MARVEL
9
LGY#174
DONNY CATES • RYAN STEGMAN • JP MAYER • FRANK MARTIN
VENOM
delgado

DISGRACED REPORTER **EDDIE BROCK** STUMBLED UPON AN AGGRESSIVE ALIEN ORGANISM, CALLED THE SYMBIOTE, DURING ONE OF THE LOWEST POINTS OF HIS LIFE. SHARING A SIMILAR NEED FOR JUSTICE IN THE FORM OF VENGEANCE, THE SYMBIOTE BONDED WITH EDDIE AND THEIR UNION GRANTED HIM POWERS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF SPIDER-MAN, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF OTHER UNIQUE ABILITIES. TOGETHER, THEY NOW FIGHT CRIME AS THE WICKED WEB-SLINGER CALLED

VENOM

AFTER AN INCREDIBLY STRAINING CONFLICT WITH A MONSTROUS SYMBIOTE DRAGON, THE VENOM SYMBIOTE NO LONGER HAS A PERSONALITY OR VOICE. INSTEAD, IT IS AN AMORPHOUS ALIEN ORGANISM, RESPONDING TO THE SUBCONSCIOUS IMPULSES OF ITS HOST, EDDIE BROCK.

HELD CAPTIVE BY THE MAKER AFTER STOPPING THE DRAGON, EDDIE LEARNED THAT IN SPITE OF ITS SILENCE, THE SYMBIOTE HAS BEEN TAMPERING WITH HIS MEMORIES AND EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO HIJACK HIS BODY AND RETURN TO HIS CHILDHOOD HOME OF SAN FRANCISCO.

DESPERATE FOR ANSWERS, EDDIE STAGED A DARING ESCAPE AND BOARDED A BUS TO CALIFORNIA TO FIND OUT JUST WHAT DREW VENOM THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE...

DONNY CATES WRITER RYAN STEGMAN PENCILER JP MAYER INKER

FRANK MARTIN COLOR ARTIST VC's CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER

RYAN STEGMAN, JP MAYER & EDGAR DELGADO COVER ARTISTS

BILL SIENKIEWICZ FANTASTIC FOUR VILLAINS VARIANT COVER ARTIST

ANTHONY GAMBINO TITLE PAGE DESIGN | LAUREN AMARO ASSISTANT EDITOR | DEVIN LEWIS EDITOR | NICK LOWE EXECUTIVE EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI EDITOR IN CHIEF | JOE QUESADA CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER | DAN BUCKLEY PRESIDENT | ALAN FINE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEONE, WHEN YOUR LIVES ARE TIED TOGETHER, YOUR BODIES SHARE THE HAPPINESS YOU CREATE.

THE BOTH OF YOU BECOME A HIVE MIND OF THE JOY AND THE LAUGHTER, THE BIG THINGS AND THE SMALL.

EVERYTHING THE TWO OF YOU DO GOES INTO THAT SAME, SHARED PLACE.

AND WHEN YOUR OTHER HALF DIES...

...THE HIVE MIND OF YOUR LIFE TOGETHER... BECOMES YOURS TO CARRY AND KEEP, ALONE.

THAT FEELING. THE MASSIVE, UNMANAGEABLE WEIGHT...

...THE SUDDEN, SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF KEEPING THE MEMORIES OF THE LIFE YOU SHARED ALIVE...

...THAT'S WHAT GRIEF IS. THAT'S DESPAIR.

THAT'S LIFE FOR THOSE LEFT BEHIND.

SLOWLY THOSE SHARED MEMORIES FADE. AND WITH NO ONE ELSE THERE TO HELP YOU CARRY THEM, YOU WONDER IF THEY WERE EVER REAL IN THE FIRST PLACE.

AND YOU HATE YOURSELF EVERY DAY THE HURT GETS LESS. BECAUSE THE HURT IS THE LAST THING YOU EVER SHARED WITH THEM...

THE WOUND GETS HARDER TO HEAL. THE SCAB RIPS AWAY EVERY DAY YOU WAKE UP AND REMEMBER YOU'RE ALONE.

BUT EVENTUALLY, YOU DO MOVE ON. YOU CONNECT TO A NEW HIVE. BECAUSE THAT'S HOW WE WORK.

WE'RE SOCIAL CREATURES. WE'RE...

WE'RE BETTER WHEN WE AREN'T ALONE.

BUT WHEN THE PERSON WHO DIED IS STILL WALKING AROUND...

...WHEN THEY JUST LEFT **YOU** INSTEAD OF LEAVING **THE WORLD**...

THAT WOUND CLOSES THE SLOWEST.

BECAUSE NOT ONLY ARE YOU ALONE...

...YOU'RE ABANDONED.

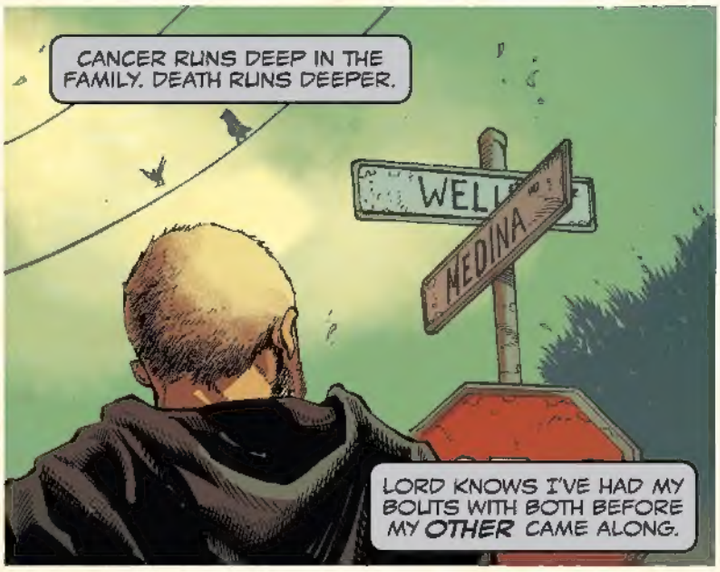
THE ABYSS

1N1

CHAPTER ONE.

I FIRST LEARNED ABOUT GRIEF FROM MY SISTER, MARY.
SHE DIED OF BREAST CANCER WHEN I WAS AWAY DOING GOD KNOWS WHAT IN NEW YORK.

CANCER TOOK MY UNCLE, TOO. IT HORRIFIED ME TO NO END AS A KID, SEEING HIM WASTE AWAY LIKE THAT.


CANCER RUNS DEEP IN THE FAMILY. DEATH RUNS DEEPER.
MEDINA
LORD KNOWS I'VE HAD MY BOUTS WITH BOTH BEFORE MY OTHER CAME ALONG.

ALL OF THAT DEATH AND DYING AND YOU'D THINK THE BROCKS THAT ARE STILL LEFT ALIVE WOULD BE CLOSE...

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

EVERYTHING I AM IS BECAUSE OF THAT HATEFUL OLD SON OF A &#@$&.
BROCK

WHY I CAN'T KEEP A RELATIONSHIP, OR A JOB. OR MY TEMPER.
WHY I CAN'T STAND THE SOUND OF MY OWN VOICE IN MY HEAD.
WHY...

WHY I'M SO DAMN SCARED OF BEING ALONE.
COME ON, DON'T BE SCARED. I'M OKAY.

REMINDS ME OF MY OLD WRITING CLASSES IN COLLEGE.
MY PROFESSOR WOULD ALWAYS TELL US, "THIRD-ACT PROBLEMS ARE FIRST-ACT PROBLEMS."

AND, WELL...I SUSPECT THAT'S AS TRUE IN LIFE AS IN WRITING.
SO IF THERE'S A CHANCE IN HELL OF GETTING TO BE SOMETHING...DIFFERENT, SOMETHING BETTER THAN WHAT I AM NOW...

...IT'S TIME I LOOKED INTO THE ABYSS JUST ONE LAST TIME.

GET THE HELL OFF MY PROPERTY BEFORE I CALL THE POLICE, DAMN YOU!
...
HI, DAD.
LISTEN, BEFORE YOU START SCREAMING AT ME, I WANTED TO SAY--
YOU DON'T GET TO SAY ANYTHING AFTER YOU SHOWED UP HERE WEARING THAT RIDICULOUS COSTUME* AND SCREAMING--
*SEE VENOM #7 AND #8, VENOMANIACS! --DEVENOM
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU--
I WILL CALL THE POLICE, EDWARD!
CAN YOU NOT--
OH, AND WHY IS THAT? ANOTHER WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST?
RRRRR.

IS THAT WHY YOU'RE HERE? NEED BAILING OUT AGAIN?!
WELL, YOU LISTEN TO ME, YOU LITTLE--
WILL YOU SHUT THE @#$% UP?!
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING FROM YOU!
ALL RIGHT... DAMMIT...I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
JUST... DON'T... JUST DON'T YELL AT ME, OKAY?
DAD, I DON'T KNOW WHY I CAME HERE LAST MONTH.
I WAS... RUNNING AWAY FROM SOME BAD PEOPLE AND I...I KIND OF WOKE UP HERE, AND I WAS HOPING YOU COULD TELL ME--
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER?
EDWARD, LET ME BE VERY CLEAR ABOUT SOMETHING.
THIS IS NOT YOUR HOME.
YOU HAVE BROUGHT NOTHING BUT PAIN AND MISERY AND SHAME TO THIS FAMILY.
THIS IS NOT A PLACE YOU CAN COME TO FOR HELP. I WANT NO PART OF YOU OR THIS...THIS INSANE, DELUSIONAL LIFE YOU ARE LEADING.

YOU ARE NOT MY S--
PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT.
PLEASE DON'T TELL ME I'M NOT YOURS.
I KNOW YOU HATE ME, BUT YOU ARE ALL I HAVE.
AFTER MOM AND MARY AND ANNE DIED, I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD...I DON'T KNOW. I KNOW WE WON'T EVER BE GOOD, BUT I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD--
MARY?
WHO IS MARY?
WHAT? WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?
EDDIE, I HAVE NO CLUE WHO YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT. SOME OTHER HARLOT WHOSE LIFE YOU'VE RUINED, PERHAPS.
YOUR DAUGHTER! MY SISTER, MARY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THAT'S ENOUGH. I WILL NOT PLAY THESE GAMES WITH YOU. YOU'VE NEVER HAD A SISTER, AND YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT I HAVE NEVER HAD A DAUGHT--
WAIT! DAD!
WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?!
EDDIE, LEAVE!
NO! DAMMIT, YOU ARE GOING TO TALK TO ME OR--

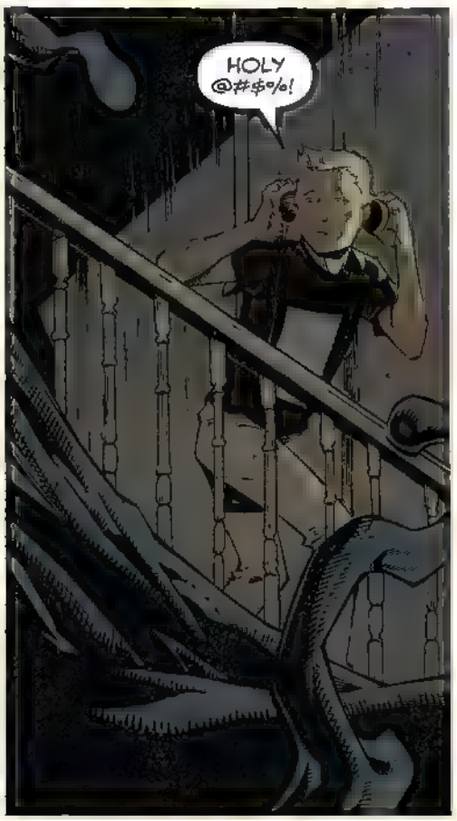
I AM
DAD?!
NOW THAT IS IT!
YOU GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE THIS INSTANT OR I SWEAR TO GOD, EDDIE, I WILL MAKE SURE YOU ARE PUT AWAY FOR--
NO!!!
OH...OH GOD...

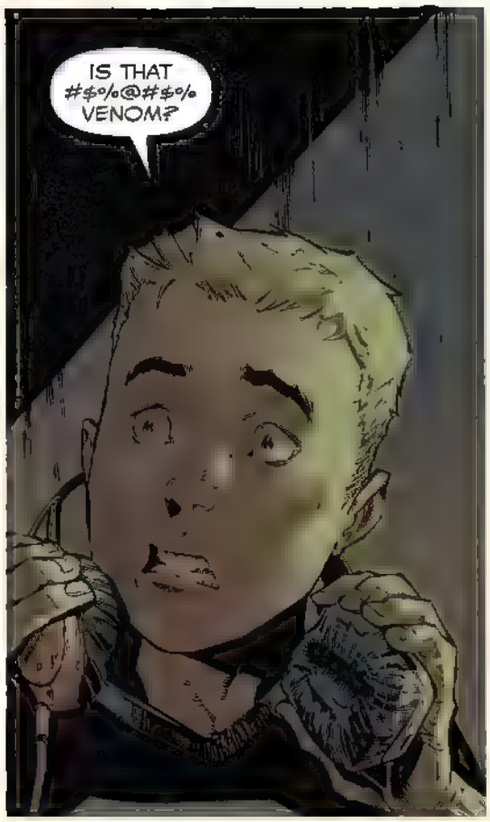
Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

POLICE, YES.
KRK
KRK
KRK
KRK
THIS IS CARL BROCK ON 714 JENKINS AVE. AND I--
KRK
KA
AGHH!!! COME ON!
I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME! PLEASE!!!
KRK
PLEASE DON'T HURT MY DAD! HE'S ALL I--
NO!!!
KRAK

SIR?! MISTER BROCK, SIR, WE ARE DISPATCHING OFFICERS TO YOUR LOCATION! PLEASE REMAIN CALM AND--

DAD?! ARE YOU--


HOLY @#$%!

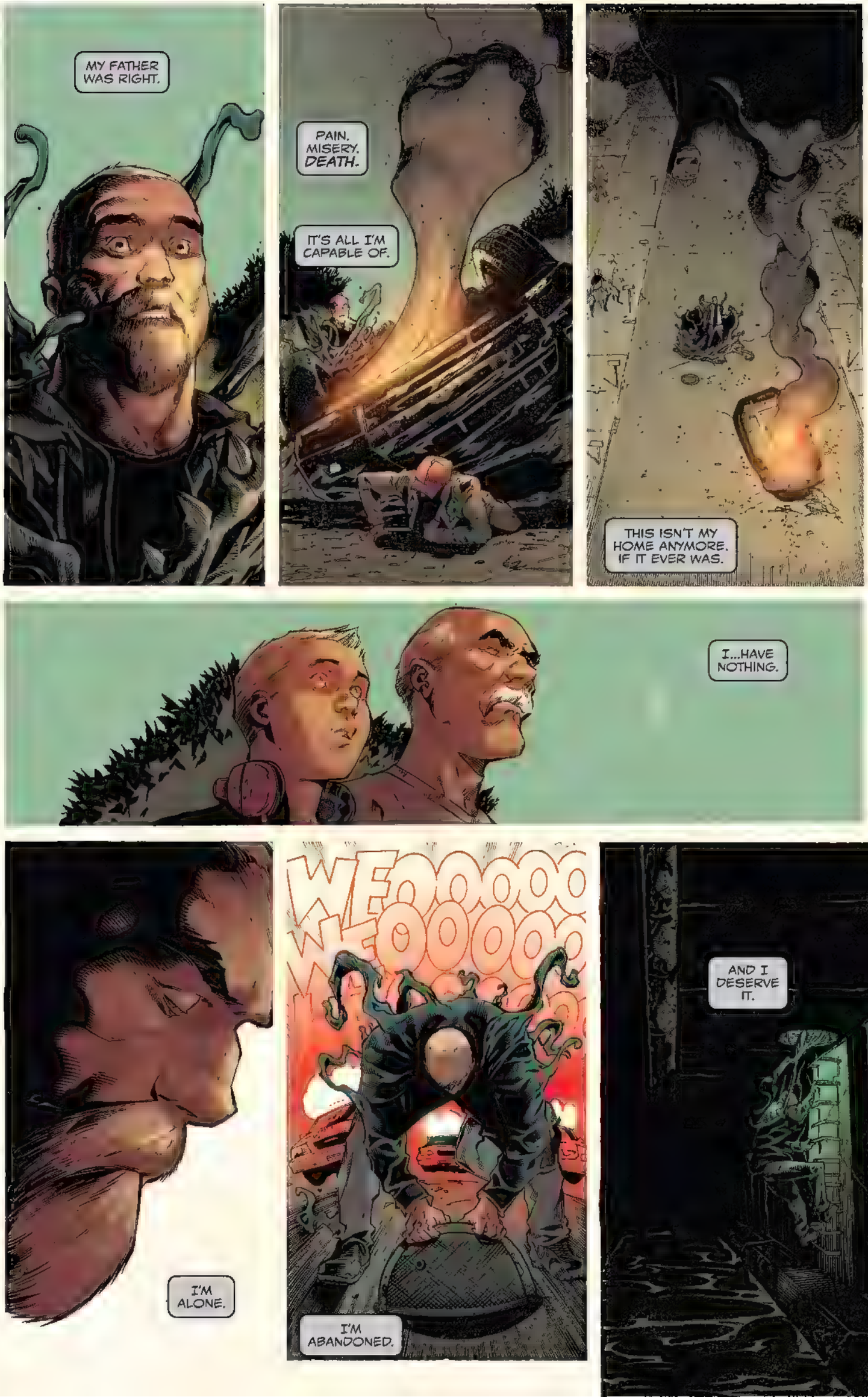

IS THAT #$%@#$% VENOM?

DYLAN, RUN!
WAIT...

...DID YOU JUST SAY "DAD"?

I'M--I'M SORRY.
I DIDN'T KNOW.
DAD, ARE YOU--
THAT'S RIGHT, EDWARD! RUN AWAY AGAIN...
MY OTHER REFUSING TO CALM DOWN. SPIRALING INSIDE MY HEAD.
...JUST LIKE YOU ALWAYS HAVE!
AGH!
HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM DAD AND...AND THAT KID?
COME ON!
HAVE TO GET THIS UNDER CONTROL BEFORE...

...EVERYTHING...
...FALLS...
...APART.
RAGHH!!!


MY FATHER WAS RIGHT.
PAIN. MISERY. DEATH.
IT'S ALL I'M CAPABLE OF.
THIS ISN'T MY HOME ANYMORE. IF IT EVER WAS.
I...HAVE NOTHING.
I'M ALONE.
WEOOOOOOO
WEOOOOOOO
I'M ABANDONED.
AND I DESERVE IT.

TWO DAYS LATER...
THE ONLY THING I HAVE LEFT NOW IS MY SHADOW.
GIRLS
AND I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER IF IT'S TIME I LOST THAT TOO.
CAN YOU STILL HEAR ME? ARE YOU STILL THERE?
CLIK
IF YOU CAN... PLEASE...PLEASE JUST...SAY SOMETHING.

TELL ME WHAT TO DO.
TELL ME EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE OKAY.
KAFF KOFF KOFF
TELL ME WHY MY BODY FEELS LIKE IT'S ROTTING FROM THE INSIDE.
TELL ME WHY I'VE BEEN COUGHING UP BLOOD FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS.
JUST... PLEASE...
FIX ME.
HELP ME...
HEY. HEY, MAN. YOU-- YOU'RE EDDIE BROCK, RIGHT?

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

YOU'RE ALL I HAVE.
YOU'RE VENOM?
YOU CAME TO MY HOUSE THE OTHER DAY.
IT'S...IT'S ABOUT OUR DAD...
WE NEED TO KILL HIM.
TO BE CONTINUED...

VENOM

#10

HEY, VENOMANIACS! THE ENTIRE FIRST ARC OF THIS EXTRATERRESTRIAL EPIC IS ON SALE RIGHT NOW! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GO GET IT! AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF THE STORY SO FAR BY WRITING TO US AT SPIDEOFFICE@MARVEL.COM! BE SURE TO MARK YOUR LETTERS "OKAY TO PRINT"!

© 2018 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.